

PUBLIC SAFETY



PRESS RELEASE

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State Fire Marshal's Office Investigates Elevator Accident

JEFFERSON CITY, July 25, 2006 --- On Monday, July 24th two elevator inspectors with the State Fire Marshal's Office began an investigation of an elevator accident at the Doubletree Westport Hotel in Maryland Heights that occurred on Sunday, July 23rd. The accident claimed the life of Vladislav Yevrayeu, age 67, who was a maintenance worker at the location.

Mr. Yevrayeu and two other hotel employees were on one of the hotel's elevators Sunday morning. Mr. Yevrayeu was reportedly attempting to make repairs to the interior control panel of the elevator when the unit stopped between the 7th and 8th floor. The occupants were able to open the elevator doors to determine if they could exit.

After a female employee successfully managed to exit the elevator cab onto the 7th floor landing, Mr. Yevrayeu reportedly attempted to do the same. During this process Mr. Yevrayeu lost his grip and fell into the elevator shaft. He fell approximately seventy (70) feet, resulting in his death.

The investigation revealed no evidence the elevator's operating or safety features malfunctioned. The elevator stopped between floors due to an electrical problem caused by the work being performed on the interior control panel of the elevator car by the victim.